

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THOMAS F. BURKE AS HE IS NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Honorable Thomas F. Burke, Jr., on the occasion of being named "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Pennsylvania Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Judge Burke serves on the Luzerne County Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, the 11th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A native of West Pittston, Judge Burke was appointed to the bench by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge. He was unanimously approved by the Pennsylvania Senate. Judge Burke took office May 22, 1998, and was elected to a full 10-year term of office by the voters of Luzerne County in 1999.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Burke was engaged in the practice of law for 25 years and, for several years, was a partner with his brother, Atty. Joseph D. Burke, in the law offices of Burke and Burke. He served as a member of the executive committee of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association.

He was also a director and president of the First Bank of Greater Pittston and served as a director of successor banking institutions.

A summa cum laude graduate of West Pittston High School, Judge Burke was inducted into the Wyoming Area Football "Ring of Pride" in 2005. Judge Burke is an honors graduate with a BA degree in finance from Lehigh University and he received his Juris Doctor degree from Villanova University School of Law.

Judge Burke is a veteran of the United States Army and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam.

Judge Burke is a former chairman of the board of trustees of Marywood University and was awarded the presidential medal from that institution in 2004. He is also a past president of the board of directors of the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce and he served as chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Social Services of Wyoming Valley. He formerly served as a member of the President's Council of King's College and as vice chairman of the board of directors of the Luzerne Foundation. Judge Burke served three terms on the board of directors of the United Way of Wyoming Valley and also chaired the capital campaigns for the Greater Pittston YMCA and the Salvation Army, West Pittston, where he also served as a member of the Advisory Council.

Judge Burke and his wife, Peggy, are members of the parish community of St. Casimir,

St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph where they serve in the Baptistal Ministry and where Judge Burke serves as a lector and as a member of the parish financial council. They are the parents of five children: Tom, a student at Harvard Law School; Bill, a student at Fordham Law School; Margy, a student at Boston College; Katey, a student at Lehigh University; and Patrick, a student at Scranton Preparatory School.

Since 1992, the Burke family has hosted students from Ireland, Japan and France.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Burke on this fine honor. The enormity of his contributions to the law, his family and community speaks volumes about his dedication, stamina and commitment and serves as a shining example for others to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on March 6, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 121 and 122.

Rollcall vote No. 121 was final passage of H. Res. 98. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 122 was on final passage of H. Res. 149. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF THOMAS D. MILLER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Thomas D. Miller, who after 33 years of distinguished service is retiring from his prestigious responsibility as Chief of the Blair Township Police Department. Chief Miller has had a successful and prominent career with many achievements and recognitions.

Chief Miller's law enforcement career began in 1974 as a part-time patrolman and quickly made his way up the ranks with his dedication to serving the community. In 1980, 3 months after being hired as a full-time police officer by the Blair Township Police Department and elected Constable of Juniata County, he was promoted to Assistant Chief. On March 13, 2001, Chief Miller was appointed Blair Township Chief of Police. His devotion to duty and commitment to the community can surely be drawn upon by future police officers.

Chief Thomas Miller's career in law enforcement has brought him recognition for his cour-

age and bravery. He was awarded the Silver Star for Bravery from the American Police Hall of Fame, as well as the Legion of Honor Award from the American Law Enforcement Officers Association for his courage, bravery, and allegiance in the performance of his duty following an incident that occurred on March 27, 1985. He is also an active member and participant in the Blair County DUI and Drug Task Forces. Chief Thomas Miller's character does not go unnoticed and is sure to bring him the most rewarding experiences in life.

Chief Miller also recognizes fellow officers' spirit and bravery being a member of the Blair County Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation.

Madam Speaker, Chief Thomas D. Miller has been very active in both professional and personal activities throughout Blair Township, Pennsylvania. Chief Thomas D. Miller is a great citizen of Blair County and we are honored to recognize him for all of his work and accomplishments. I congratulate him and wish him the best in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING JAMES F. BANNON AS HE RECEIVES THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James F. Bannon of Pittston, Pennsylvania, who has been chosen by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to receive their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Bannon was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Frank and Jule Gaffney Bannon. He received his early education at Holy Rosary School in Scranton and later graduated from Pittston High School in 1936.

He served in the United States Army before becoming associated with Bright Construction Company where he worked for 46 years as a masonry foreman. He was also a member of the Bricklayers Union No. 5, Harrisburg.

After retiring, he worked as a consultant for Reilly Associates.

Mr. Bannon also served as a member of the Pittston Area School Board.

He is a past president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and is a fourth degree member of the John F. Kennedy Council 372, Knights of Columbus, Pittston. He also served as president of the Council's Home Association.

He is currently a member of the Pittston Planning Commission.

Mr. Bannon has been married for the past 70 years to the former Frances Bright. They are the parents of two daughters, Ann Gallagher, Indiana, and Kathy Sulima, Pittston.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.